Pediatric Resident Community and Advocacy Rotation

Impact Statement Assignment

Improving the health and wellbeing of children and families is central to the specialty of Pediatrics. It is important to reflect on your ability to advocate for patients even outside of direct clinical care. Your role as a pediatrician requires excellent communication skills not only with other medical professionals and families, but also with lay people in the community including school and agency personnel. It is a crucial skill to be able to take complex medical information and transmit this into simple, understandable and effective language to communicate health information on behalf of your patients. This is a powerful form of advocacy.

This assignment requests that you draft a professional letter to explain a child’s health needs and medical plan of care. Please craft this letter with special attention to your **impact statement,** which is the language you use to underscore the child’s health needs and why these are important. The context of this letter can be of your choice (using the guidance below) and should be at minimum 1 page. Please do not include PHI such as names or DOB. Examples of this writing assignment include:

1. Taking a discharge plan for a patient and rewriting this information for a non-medical audience to ensure comprehension by a layperson. Consider that it is your priority to make sure that the child receives the necessary follow up care and therefore you must communicate the importance of the medical plan as stated and explain the diagnosis. A scenario for when this occurs is when a child is discharged from a hospital stay with a complex discharge plan and you must communicate this to a CPS worker or foster parent.
2. Identifying a health problem in a patient which requires a specific non-medical solution (ie a child with severe asthma living in public housing requiring air conditioning). You may be asked to engage in this form of advocacy for patients if the caregiver requests a form of documentation to assist them in some way.
3. Writing a general advocacy letter on a pediatric health topic (ie gun safety and negative impact of firearms in school settings).